

PfPS

22 MAR 1979

STAT MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]
Legislation Division, OLC

FROM: James H. McDonald
Director of Logistics

SUBJECT: "Protection of Identities Legislation:
S. 191"

REFERENCE: Multi adse memo dtd 8 Mar 79 fm C/LD/OLC,
same subj (OLC 79-0890; OL 9 0890)

1. This Office has reviewed your analysis of the subject bill, and we fully support Congressional efforts to promote legislation to protect the identities of CIA employees. Some of our own Office of Logistics employees have been subjected to unauthorized disclosure of their identities while serving under cover--a circumstance which is officially unacceptable and most certainly not very comforting to these individuals and their families.

2. Although we cannot help but be concerned for the safety of our employees and their families, this sort of repugnant behavior on the part of those who engage in identifying and publicizing names of Agency employees also has an effect on the employees' assignability in the future. In recent months, this Office has had difficulty in assigning some of its most qualified personnel to specific assignments because of the more rigorous cover considerations. Covert assignment of individuals who have been identified as CIA employees makes these operations more vulnerable to targeting by hostile groups. We believe the Agency can ill afford to waste the talents of these people; yet, there is an overriding concern that the unauthorized disclosure of our employees' identities will jeopardize our intelligence operations.

3. Finally, our employees now, as in the past, are prepared to accept reasonable risks in order to ensure that the

OL 9 0890a

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Agency's important mission continues in furtherance of our country's vital interests. It would appear that the least Congress could do is to ensure that laws exist which minimize the risks and sacrifices our employees are asked to make. Senator Bentsen's bill seems to contain all of the essential ingredients to make this possible.

Signed: James H. McDonald

James H. McDonald

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